

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08  
COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 JUSE-00 /069 W  
-----060955 048192 /12

R 060835Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2999  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0347

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR ETRD US MU  
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION ON ARAB BOYCOTT

REF: (A) STATE 043693; (B) STATE 043697

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR HAS CONVEYED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND POINTS PARA 1 REF A TO FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY YUSUF AL-ALAWI, WHOSE SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS WHILE BREAKING NO NEW GROUND AT LEAST REFLECTED SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE TOPIC AND AWARENESS THAT THE TYPE OF NEW LEGISLATION THAT COMES FORWARD IN US CONGRESS COULD HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF OVERALL US PEACE EFFORT IN MIDEAST. EMBASSY E/C OFFICER HAD SEPARATE MEETING WITH HEAD OF CENTRAL BANK, YUSUF NIMATALLAH, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN KEEN INTEREST IN BOYCOTT MATTERS. NIMATALLAH IS OPTIMISTIC  
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THAT OMANGOV IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD ACCEPT POSITIVE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN IN ALMOST ALL CASES, AND HE FEELS THAT LANGUAGE REFERRING TO BLACKLISTED SHIPPING COULD POSSIBLE BE ELIMINATED FROM LETTERS OF CREDIT. OUR REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH COMMERCE MINISTER ZUBAIR HAS SO FAR GONE UNFULFILLED; MEANWHILE HAVE SENT HIM TEXT OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND COPY OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT WITH AL-ALAWI CONTAINING REF A TALKING POINTS.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI HAS BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY SINCE REFTELS  
ARRIVED MARCH 1. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY AL-ALAWI LISTENED INTENTLY TO AMBASSADOR'S  
PRESENTATION AND SAID HE WELCOMED THE APPROACH. HE SAID OMAN  
HOPES ITS USEFUL TRADE WITH U.S. WOULD CONTINUE AND EXPAND  
WITHOUT BEING INTERRUPTED BY POSSIBLE NEW U.S. LEGISLATION.  
HE SAID OMAN HAS GIVEN SOME ATTENTION THIS WINTER TO QUESTION  
OF LANGUAGE USED ON BOYCOTT CERTIFICATIONS, THOUGH IT IS  
APPROACHING THIS GINGERLY BECAUSE OF GENERAL GUIDANCE ON  
THESE MATTERS EMANATING FROM CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN  
DAMASCUS. THEORETICALLY, HE SAID, IT IS FOR ARAB LEAGUE  
COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO DECIDE WHAT DEPARTURES FROM  
THIS GUIDANCE MAY BE MADE BY INDIVIDUAL ARAB STATES, BUT IN  
PRACTICE OMAN, JUST AS MANY OTHERS, MAKES POLICY RULINGS IN  
LIGHT OF ITS OWN INTERESTS. ONE SUCH RULING IN OMAN, HE  
WENT ON AUTHORIZES IMPORTATION REGARDLESS OF BOYCOTT RESTRICTIONS  
OF ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE  
ESTABLISHMENT AND FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT. HE INTIMATED, HOWEVER,  
THAT THIS IS RATHER CAUTIOUSLY INTERPRETED. AL-ALAWI ALSO  
EVIDENCED SOME APPREHENSION THAT WHATEVER LEGISLATION MAY  
FINALLY EMERGE, THERE IS BOUND TO BE SOME ILL-EFFECT ON U.S.  
POSITION IN MIDEAST AREA SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WILL BE VIEWED  
BY MANY IN THE REGION AS BEING AIMED AT RENDERING THE ARABS  
A SETBACK WHETHER OR NOT IT SINGLES OUT THE ARAB STATES FOR  
SPECIFIC MENTION.

3. THROUGHOUT MEETING WITH E/C OFFICER, NIMATALLAH SHOWED  
POSITIBE ATTITUDES TOWARD ALLEVIATING OBSTACLES TO U.S.-  
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OMANI TRADE SUCH AS BOYCOTT ISSUE. HE UNDERSTOOD USG  
OBJECTIONS TO SECONDARY AND TERTIARY BOYCOTT, AND HE STATED  
THAT AMERICAN FIRMS SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO REFUSE TO DEAL  
WITH ISRAEL OR OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS. NIMATALLAH PERSONALLY  
FAVORED POSITIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, AND PROMISED TO  
SPEAK TO COMMERCE MINISTER ZUBAIR IN ORDER TO OVERCOME COMMERCE  
MINISTRY RESERVATIONS ABOUT UNIFORM ACCEPTANCE OF POSITIVE  
CERTIFICATION. HE ALSO FELT THAT IN FUTURE SHIPPERS MIGHT  
NOT HAVE TO STATE THAT TRANSPORTING VESSEL IS NOT ON ISRAEL  
BLACKLIST, AS IS NOW REQUIRED IN LETTERS OF CREDIT. SINCE  
OMANGOV AND OMANI FIRMS USE DISCRETION IN CHOOSING SUPPLIERS,  
NIMATALLAH CONSIDERS OVERT BOYCOTT LANGUAGE BY U.S. EXPORTERS  
TO BE LARGELY UNNECESSARY. NIMATALLAH BELIEVED THAT STRICT  
ADHERENCE TO BOYCOTT BY ARAB COUNTRIES WILL BE ERODED GRADUALLY  
AS TRADE WITH WEST INCREASES; HE GAVE EXAMPLES OF LARGE  
KUWAITI PRIVATE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS WITH BLACKLISTED  
FIRMS EVEN THOUGH KUWAIT GOVERNMENT IS PUBLICLY STRICT.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO THIS ISSUE IN

LOCAL MEDIA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, BOYCOTTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MUSCAT00347  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770077-0417  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczkt.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 09ad12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 43693, 77 STATE 43697  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3192388  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPRESENTATION ON ARAB BOYCOTT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, US, MU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/09ad12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
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